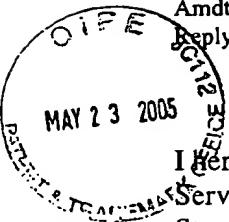


Appl. No. 09/972,541  
Amdt. Dated May 23, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

Do Not Enter 6/1/05  
MM



### CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. EV022367689US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 23, 2005.

Jacob N. Erlich  
Jacob N. Erlich  
Reg. No. 24,338

### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.	:	09/972,541	Confirmation No. 4434
Applicant	:	Daniel R. Bolar	
Filed	:	October 8, 2001	
TC/A.U.	:	2113	
Examiner	:	Maskulinski, Michael C.	
Title	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING DISTRIBUTED FAULT MANAGEMENT POLICIES IN A NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	
Docket No.	:	10010463-1 (28579-196)	
Customer No.	:	022878	

AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
Legal Department, DL429  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 7599  
Loveland, CO 80537-0599

TO: Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

### REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated March 22, 2005, rejecting pending claims 1-17 and 19-25 in the above-mentioned application, please enter this amendment since it places the application in form for immediate allowance or, in the alternative, in condition for appeal:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Appl. No. 09/972,541  
Amdt. Dated May 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

**Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.**

It should be noted that this response/amendment due date falls on a Sunday, May 22, 2005. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7(a), this response/amendment, being mailed via express mail on Monday, May 23, 2005, is timely filed during the shortened statutory period that expires two months from March 22, 2005, the mailing date final Office Action.